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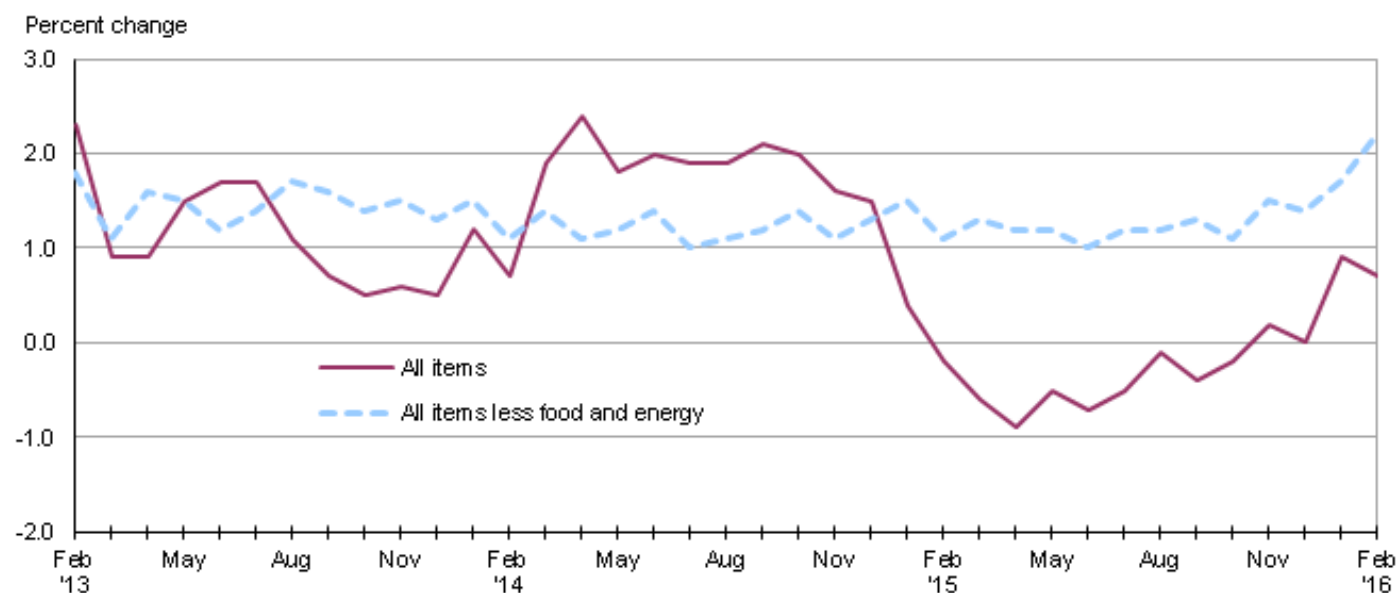
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha — February 2016

Local prices increased 0.7 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area decreased 0.2 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that energy prices fell 5.8 percent and food prices were down 0.8 percent in February. The all items less food and energy index increased 0.3 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were lower for apparel, but higher for shelter, medical care, and recreation. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Chicago area all items CPI-U rose 0.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index fell 18.2 percent over the year due to annual declines in gasoline prices. The all items less food and energy index was 2.2 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago, February 2013–February 2016



Food

Food prices fell 0.8 percent in February following a 0.9-percent increase in January. Between the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) decreased 1.3 percent, while prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were unchanged over the month. Within the food at home group, prices were down for tomatoes, lettuce, and uncooked ground beef. In contrast, the indexes for apples and other pork including roasts and picnics experienced increases.

From February 2015 to February 2016, the food index increased 2.1 percent. Prices for food eaten away from home increased 3.8 percent over the year, while grocery food prices rose 0.9 percent from the previous February.

Energy

The energy index was down 5.8 percent in February primarily due to gasoline prices falling 14.9 percent. In contrast, utility (piped) gas service costs rose 2.2 percent while electricity costs recorded little movement, up 0.1 percent over the month.

On an annual basis, the Chicago area energy index declined 18.2 percent over the year. The major contributing factor for the energy index's decline was the 29.5 percent decrease in gasoline prices since February 2015. Electricity costs fell 10.9 percent and utility (piped) gas service costs fell 6.2 percent during the same period.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent in February. Prices were lower for apparel (-1.0 percent), but higher for shelter (0.4 percent), medical care (0.7 percent), and recreation (0.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.2 percent. Annual increases in the indexes for shelter (3.3 percent), medical care (1.4 percent), and recreation (2.2 percent) were major contributing factors.

Table A. Chicago CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.6	2.1	0.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4	0.8	0.9
February.....	0.0	1.6	1.1	2.3	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.7
March.....	1.2	2.1	-0.1	0.9	1.1	1.9	0.7	-0.6		
April.....	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.5	2.4	0.1	-0.9		
May.....	-0.1	1.0	0.5	1.5	-0.1	1.8	0.3	-0.5		
June.....	-0.1	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.0	0.2	-0.7		
July.....	-0.2	1.1	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.9	-0.1	-0.5		
August.....	0.6	1.5	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.9	0.4	-0.1		
September.....	0.3	1.6	-0.2	0.7	0.0	2.1	-0.3	-0.4		
October.....	-0.2	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	2.0	-0.1	-0.2		
November.....	-0.4	1.5	-0.3	0.6	-0.8	1.6	-0.4	0.2		
December.....	-0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	1.5	-0.6	0.0		

The March 2016 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Thursday, April 14, 2016.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
Expenditure category						
All items.....	226.271	227.977	227.438	0.7	0.5	-0.2
All items (1967=100).....	676.002	681.101	679.489	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	243.377	245.610	243.687	1.9	0.1	-0.8
Food.....	243.108	245.397	243.490	2.1	0.2	-0.8
Food at home.....	238.461	241.630	238.542	0.9	0.0	-1.3
Food away from home.....	244.185	245.031	245.031	3.8	0.3	0.0
Alcoholic beverages.....	245.626	247.010	244.869	-0.6	-0.3	-0.9
Housing.....	231.915	234.312	235.109	1.7	1.4	0.3
Shelter.....	290.244	294.048	295.174	3.3	1.7	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	309.939	310.212	310.874	2.7	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	297.120	297.807	298.803	2.7	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	297.120	297.807	298.803	2.7	0.6	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	188.610	187.636	188.848	-5.6	0.1	0.6
Household energy.....	150.959	149.835	151.073	-9.2	0.1	0.8
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	153.782	152.632	153.903	-9.3	0.1	0.8
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	158.638	155.005	155.175	-10.9	-2.2	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	132.600	135.550	138.482	-6.2	4.4	2.2
Household furnishings and operations.....	94.146	94.592	94.235	-2.9	0.1	-0.4
Apparel.....	87.087	90.778	89.863	2.4	3.2	-1.0
Transportation.....	173.699	173.581	169.456	-5.1	-2.4	-2.4
Private transportation.....	170.155	169.114	165.136	-5.6	-2.9	-2.4
Motor fuel.....	185.278	174.279	148.371	-29.5	-19.9	-14.9
Gasoline (all types).....	183.208	172.365	146.680	-29.5	-19.9	-14.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	174.715	163.518	138.316	-31.5	-20.8	-15.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	209.067	201.279	174.342	-23.0	-16.6	-13.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	211.555	203.500	179.414	-16.8	-15.2	-11.8
Medical care.....	465.295	467.447	470.690	1.4	1.2	0.7
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	108.904	110.576	111.243	2.2	2.1	0.6
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	143.576	142.495	142.838	0.9	-0.5	0.2
Other goods and services.....	384.159	382.564	382.476	1.0	-0.4	0.0
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	226.271	227.977	227.438	0.7	0.5	-0.2
Commodities.....	164.125	165.253	162.916	-1.4	-0.7	-1.4
Commodities less food & beverages.....	124.272	124.900	122.512	-4.1	-1.4	-1.9
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	159.689	159.235	153.926	-6.2	-3.6	-3.3
Durables.....	90.274	91.635	91.508	-1.4	1.4	-0.1
Services.....	285.128	287.389	288.641	2.0	1.2	0.4
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care.....	216.027	217.716	217.009	0.7	0.5	-0.3
All items less shelter.....	204.730	205.714	204.596	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5
Commodities less food.....	128.598	129.252	126.846	-3.9	-1.4	-1.9
Nondurables.....	201.847	202.691	198.970	-1.6	-1.4	-1.8
Nondurables less food.....	165.275	164.922	159.762	-5.8	-3.3	-3.1
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	294.506	295.199	296.728	0.6	0.8	0.5
Services less medical care services.....	271.489	273.717	274.929	2.1	1.3	0.4
Energy.....	163.989	159.044	149.771	-18.2	-8.7	-5.8

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
All items less energy.....	233.997	236.334	236.599	2.2	1.1	0.1
All items less food and energy.....	233.165	235.519	236.180	2.2	1.3	0.3

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.